

Thrilling
Western
Adventures

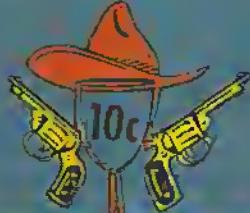
with **KIT WEST** and the **PRINCE OF PIONEERS**

ANC



AN Aron Comic

NO. 5



COW PUNCHER



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



The FLAMING FINGERS OF DEATH



A STEALTHY HAND SENDS THE QUIET FOREST INTO A BLAZING INFERNO OF BURNING DEATH...A BEAUTIFUL GIRL IS LEFT THERE TO PERISH AMID THE LEAPING FLAMES. WHY---? IT'S A PUZZLE THAT, WE'RE TELLING YOU, NOT FOR THE TEXAS RANGER, MAY WELL HAVE GONE UNSOLVED, AND, WITH IT, A KILLER WOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT FREE TO TAKE HIS PLACE AMONG HONEST MEN! BUT THE TEXAS RANGER, SYMBOL OF JUSTICE AND HONOR IN THE OLD WEST, UNRAVELS THE PUZZLE THAT BEGAN IN THE FLAMING FOREST WHEN HE FOUGHT THE FLAMING FINGERS OF DEATH!!!

ONE AFTERNOON, THE TEXAS RANGER IS PEACEFULLY RIDING THROUGH THE FOREST, WHEN....

EASY, BOY...
MAYBE...SAY,
WAIT A
MINUTE!
I SMELL
SMOKE!

GREAT SHOOTIN---!
IT'S A FOREST FIRE! AND
IT'S COMING FAST, TOO!
I'D BETTER GET TO
TOWN AND WARN
EVERYONE!



GODDAP, BOY---! THE
WIND IS FROM THE
WEST! WE CAN GET
AHEAD OF THE
FLAMES THIS
WAY!

WHOA---/
THAT HORSE---
THE RIDER IS
MISSING!



THE RIDER OF THAT
HORSE MAY BE BACK
IN THOSE FLAMES!
C'MON, BOY,
LET'S GO!

RACING BACK INTO THE BURNING FOREST, THE
TEXAS RANGER SUDDENLY FINDS AN INERT FORM...



SHE'LL BE BADLY
BURNED IN A SECOND!
GOOD---- SHE'S
WAKING UP!

OO-OH----
MY HEAD!

OH---WH---
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED?

YOU WERE ON FIRE!
C'MON....WE'VE GOT
TO GET OUT OF HERE!
WERE IN THE MIDDLE
OF A RAGING FIRE!

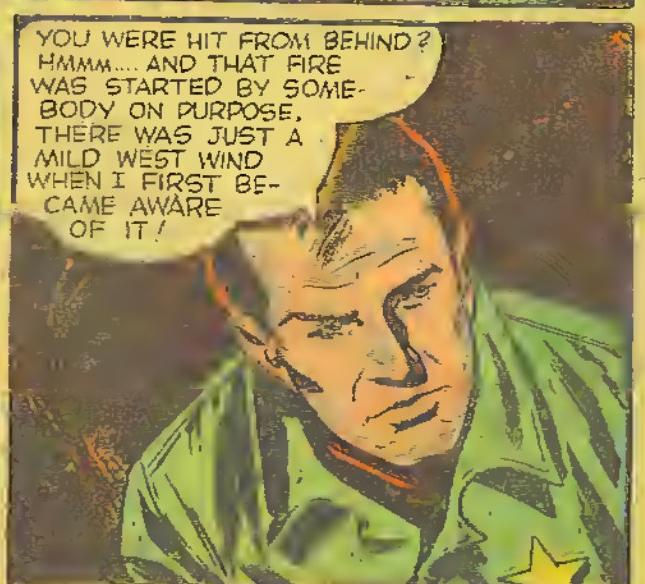
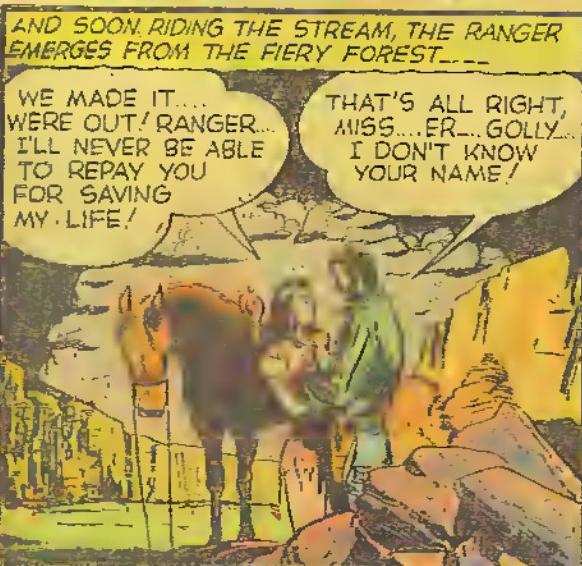
HOW CAN WE
GET OUT? THE
FIRE IS ALL
AROUND
US!

WE'RE HEMMED IN FROM
ALL SIDES NOW! MIGHTY
STRANGE TO HAVE
SPREAD IN ALL
DIRECTIONS SO
FAST!

WE'RE TRAPPED....
WE'LL BE BURNED
TO DEATH!

NOT IF I CAN
HELP IT! HANG
ON....WE'LL
FIND SOME
WAY OUT!

KEEP YOUR HEAD LOW, MISS.
THERE'S NO TIME TO STOP....
THAT'S IT BOY....KEEP
GOING! I REMEMBER A
STREAM IN THOSE
WOODS....IF I CAN
ONLY FIND IT IN
THE INFERNAL!



THEN SUDDENLY, THE FIRE HEMMED US IN FROM ALL SIDES. A WIND BLOWING FROM ONE DIRECTION WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT SO QUICKLY. IT WAS SET IN FOUR DIFFERENT SPOTS SO IT'D SPREAD FAST!



BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL ME---? WHY....WHY---?

SOMEBODY MEANT TO KILL YOU AND MAKE IT SEEM AS IF YOU'D DIED IN THE FIRE! MAYBE I CAN FIND OUT WHO AND WHY!



AS FAR AS THE MURDERER KNOWS, YOU'RE DEAD. I'LL GO TO TOWN AND SEE IF I CAN PICK UP A LEAD. MEANWHILE I'LL HIDE YOU IN A RANGER WAY-STATION, NEAR HERE!



NEXT DAY, IN-TOWN THE RANGER BEGINS PUTTING HIS PLAN INTO EFFECT.

YES, RANGER, I'M HAL CREEGER, MANAGER HERE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'VE BAD NEWS, YOUR SINGER, CORA CARTER, WAS TRAPPED IN A BAD FOREST FIRE. I FOUND HER BODY!



WHAT...?? POOR CORA. THIS IS REALLY A SHOCK!



I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL. IT LOOKS AS IF YOU'LL HAVE TO GET SOMEONE TO REPLACE HER. LET ME KNOW IF I CAN HELP!

AND STILL LATER...

SO FAR SO GOOD...I'VE SPREAD IT ALL OVER TOWN. NOW TO WAIT AND WATCH CLOSELY. SOONER OR LATER THE MAN I WANT WILL

TIP HIS HAND



SUDDENLY... THAT'S ALL RIGHT,
PARDON ME, RANGER. SAY IF
MA'M... I WASN'T YOU'RE GOING TO BE
WATCHING, RECKIN' I WAS
THINKIN' HARD/ LISTEN TO ME, I'M
THE NEW SINGER
CREEGAR
HIRED!

I SURE
WILL BE
THERE,
LISTENING,
MA'M.

GOOD...! I'M GOING
TO NAP TILL TONIGHT.
I'M DEAD TIRED. IT
TOOK ME ALL DAY
YESTERDAY TO LEARN
THE SONGS HE WANTS
ME TO SING TO-
NIGHT!

IT TOOK HER ALL DAY
YESTERDAY TO LEARN
THOSE SONGS? THEN
CREEGAR HIRED HER, TOLD
HER WHAT TO SING---
YESTER-
DAY!

THAT MEANS JUST ONE THING...
CREEGAR KNEW YESTERDAY HE'D NEED
TO REPLACE CORA---BECAUSE HE
PLANNED TO
GET RID
OF HER!

THAT DOES IT....CREEGAR'S MY MAN!
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY HE
TRIED TO KILL CORA BUT I'LL
KNOW THAT TONIGHT!

LATER READY... THERE HE IS. HE'S IN FOR
THAT A LITTLE SURPRISE! LET'S GO!!!!

AS YOU FOLKS
KNOW, CORA CARTER
DIED IN THAT FOREST
FIRE --- A REAL
TRAGEDY. HOWEVER,
I'VE ANOTHER---

THAT'S ALL, CREEGAR...
I'VE A LITTLE SUR-
PRISE FOR YOU!

WHAAA?? IT'S
HER--- SHE'S ALIVE!

I'M TAKING YOU IN FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER, CREEGAR! YOU TIPPED YOUR HAND WHEN YOU HIRED CORA'S REPLACEMENT YESTERDAY!

YOU'RE NOT TAKIN' ME ANYPLACE, RANGER....!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO STICK YOUR NOSE INTO MY BUSINESS!



YOU WANT TO PLAY ROUGH, EH? ANYTHING YOU SAY, CREEGAR.

I'M GOIN' TO FINISH WHAT I STARTED!

GUN PLAY, TOO....! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, YOU'LL GET IT!



MUSN'T PLAY WITH GUNS....!

Oooh.... MY HAND!

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN TO DRAW AGAINST A RANGER!



NO... PLEASE
DON'T HIT ME
AGAIN....
DON'T!

IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH,
YOU VARMINT!

MAKE HIM TELL WHY
HE TRIED TO KILL
ME, RANGER. WE
STILL DON'T
KNOW THAT!

YOU HEARD HER,
CREEGAR.... START
TALKING, FAST!



YES, YES.... I'LL TELL HER DRESSING ROOM IS RIGHT NEXT TO MY OFFICE, THE OTHER NIGHT, LATE, I WAS PAYING OFF A GAMBLING DEBT. I'VE BEEN USING THE HOTEL'S MONEY FOR GAMBLING!

THEN I SAW THE LIGHT ON IN CORA'S DRESSING ROOM, I KNEW SHE'D OVERHEARD ME, AND I HAD TO GET RID OF HER!

NOW I SEE ---- BUT ONE THING IS WRONG HERE, CREEGAR...



I WASN'T IN MY ROOM THAT NIGHT.... I REMEMBER, I'D JUST LEFT THE LIGHT ON BY MISTAKE!

NO... NO.... ! BUT WHEN I SAW THE LIGHT.... I... THOUGHT.... OH, NO!



AND SO LATER.... CREEGAR BEHIND PRISON BARS....

THANKS AGAIN, RANGER.... FOR EVERYTHING, PLEASE VISIT ME OFTEN.... I'LL BE SINGING EVERY NIGHT AGAIN

I'LL BE BACK SOME TIME, CORA. TILL THEN.... GOOD-BYE!

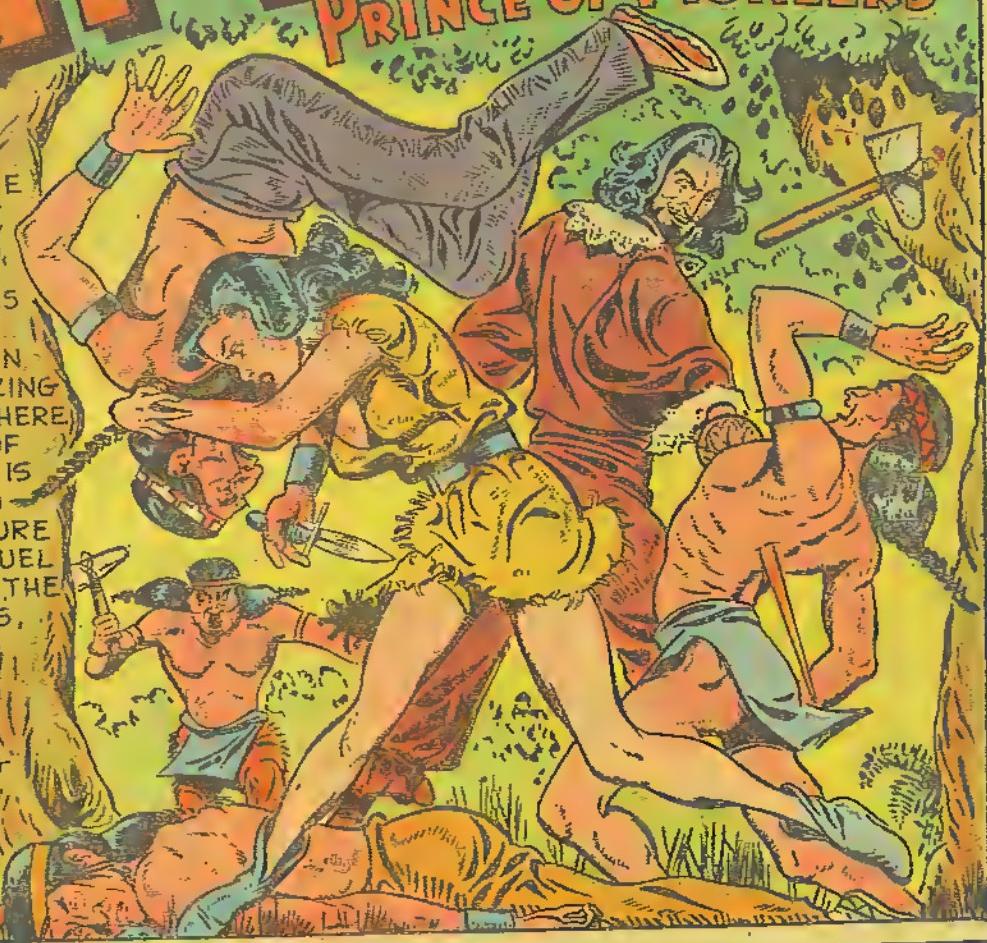


KIT WEST

and the

PRINCE OF PIONEERS

WHAT IS THE QUIRK IN MEN THAT THEY WILL HATE WHAT IS FOREIGN TO THEM? EVEN ON THE BLAZING FRONTIER WHERE THE HAND OF EVERY MAN IS NEEDED TO BATTLE NATURE AND THE CRUEL SAVAGES OF THE WILDERNESS, PREJUDICE REARS ITS UGLY HEAD TO BREED A HORRIFYING TRAGEDY!



LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, WHEN THE WEST WAS YOUNG, AND THE ONLY TRAINS WERE WAGON TRAINS...

NICE LITTLE BURG,
LEXINGTON - SHAME T'LEAVE
IT JUST WHEN WE WAS GETTIN'
ACQUAINTED.



WE DIDN'T COME FOR A GOOD TIME, HANK, WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS WAGON SAFE TO THE MISSOURI SETTLEMENTS!



VLADIMIR! - STOP THE TRAIN!
ER - THE WHOLE TRAIN, SIR?

KIT! GIT A LOAD OF THET!

IN THE NAME OF
HIS HIGHNESS,
PRINCE RUDOLPH,
OF MORDAVIA,
I COMMAND YOU
TO STOP!

W-WHAT? I'LL RUN
THAT PIP SQUEAK
DOWN!

JUST A
MINUTE,
HANK.

HIS HIGHNESS DEMANDS
AN AUDIENCE WITH
THE OFFICER IN
COMMAND.

THAT'S ME! TELL HIM
TO COME OVER, BUT
FAST! WE'RE IN A
HURRY!

A MERE SLIP OF A
GIRL GIVING **ME**
ORDERS? TELL HER
TO COME HERE,
VLADIMIR, I GROW
IMPATIENT!

ER - COMMON
PEOPLE USUALLY
APPROACH THE
PRINCE, MISS.

THAT'S A BAD HABIT, KINGS
AND COBBLERS ARE EQUAL IN
AMERICA! GET TO THE
POINT, PRINCE -- IF YOU
ARE A PRINCE!

I WISH TO HELP FIGHT
INDIANS, SO I WILL
TAKE OVER COMMAND
OF THIS BAND OF
ROGUES AT ONCE!

WE CAN USE YOUR HELP,
PRINCE - BUT ONLY AS A RIFLE-
MAN. I'M IN CHARGE HERE
BECAUSE OF MY EXPERIENCE.

RIFLEMAN OR NOTHING,
PRINCE! **GIDDAP!**

THE PRINCE OF
MORDAVIA - THE
GREATEST MILITARY
MIND IN EUROPE -
A COMMON
FOOT SOLDIER?

YOU DROPPED
YOUR CROWN,
YOUR HIGHNESS!
HAW! HAW!

LET THEM GO, SIR.
AMERICANS WILL
NEVER UNDER-
STAND YOU. BETTER
WE GO BACK TO
MORDAVIA.

NO-I CAN NEVER
GO BACK, SO-
I SHALL BECOME
A COMMON
RIFLEMAN -
COME, VLADIMIR!



A DAY WILL COME! I WILL HAVE
MY REVENGE, AMERICAN SWINE...!

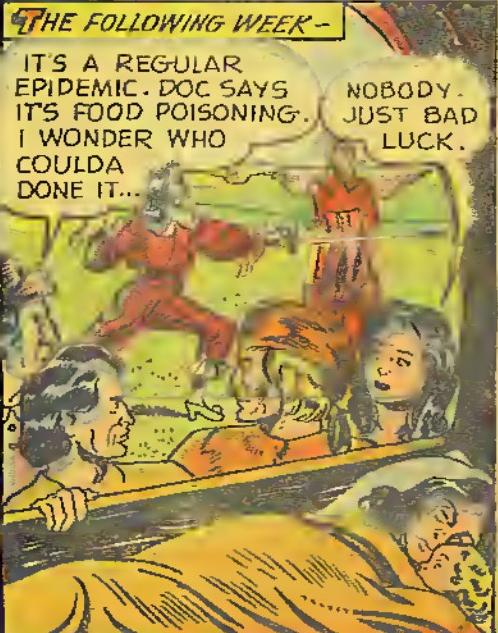
SWINE? I'M GOIN' TO
POKE HIS TEETH OUT,
PRINCE OR NO PRINCE!



THE FOLLOWING WEEK -

IT'S A REGULAR
EPIDEMIC. DOC SAYS
IT'S FOOD POISONING.
I WONDER WHO
COULD'A
DONE IT...

NOBODY.
JUST BAD
LUCK.



10 DAYS PASS, FULL OF STRAIN AND TENSION...

I MUST HAVE A FORK
AND KNIFE! I CANNOT
EAT LIKE THESE PIGS!

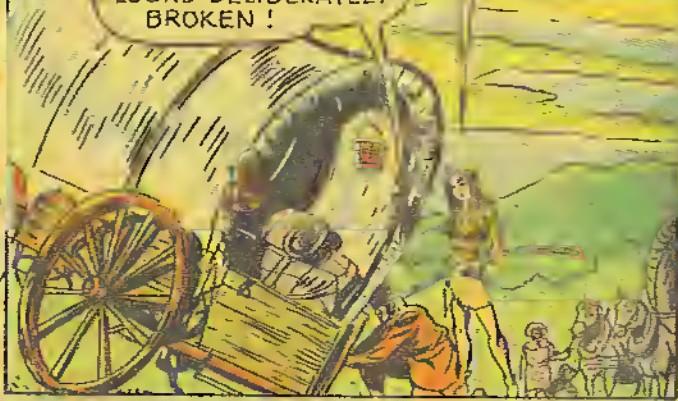
THE FRONTIER ISN'T A
PALACE, PRINCE. YOU'LL
HAVE TO FOREGO MANY
COMFORTS.



DAYS
LATER

THIS IS THE FIFTH
WAGON TO BREAK
DOWN IN TWO
DAYS. THAT AXLE
LOOKS DELIBERATELY
BROKEN!

YOU'RE IMAGINING
THINGS, TOM. GET
THE CARPENTERS.



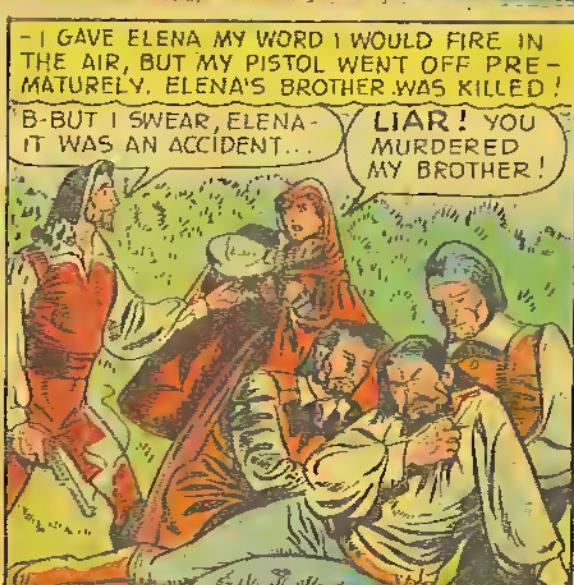
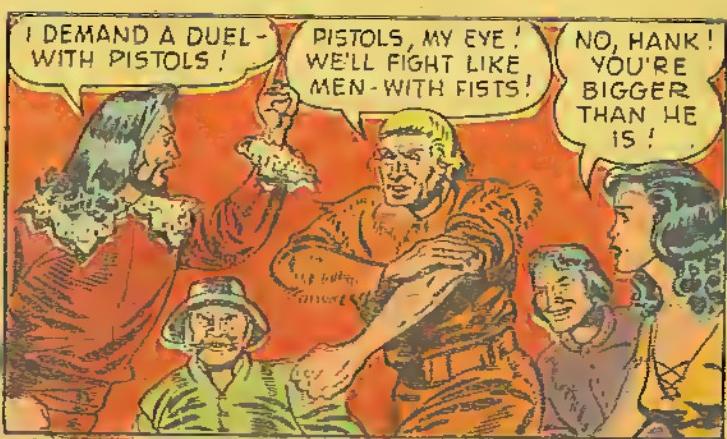
I CAN'T MAKE HIM
OUT, HANK. WHAT
BRINGS A ROYAL
PRINCE TO THE
FRONTIER?



THE EVIL
EYE! WHY,
WE'VE HAD
NUTHIN' BUT
BREAKDOWN
AN' SICKNESS
SINCE HE
JOINED US.

AN' WHO KNOWS IF HE
IS A PRINCE? HOW
COME A FURRINER
SPEAKS PERFECT
ENGLISH?

NOT ONLY
ENGLISH, YOU
IGNORAMUS, BUT
TWENTY OTHER
LANGUAGES!



- THAT NIGHT, OVERCOME WITH GRIEF, ELENA LEAPED TO HER DEATH FROM THE CASTLE WALL!"



PRINCESS!

TO ME, EUROPE WAS ELENA. WITH HER GONE, I CAN NEVER RETURN. WITH MY FAITHFUL SERVANT, VLADIMIR, I CAME HERE TO BE OF SERVICE TO AMERICA.



AH, BUT MR. JINY HAS A SLICK TONGUE! KIT SNEAKIN' SWALLOWED THE WHOLE RENEGADE FAIRY-TALE!

BAH! THE SNEAKIN' RENEGADE! HE'D BETTER BRING NO MORE BAD LUCK TO THIS WAGON TRAIN.

NEXT DAY -- A SCOUTING PARTY, OPERATING A MILE AHEAD...



TWO HOURS LATER-

DEAD! EVERY BLAMED ONE OF THEM!

WHERE WERE YOU, MR. PRINCE? I SEEN YOU LEAVE THE TRAIN EARLY THIS MORNIN'... MAYBE TO WARN YOUR INJUN FRIENDS?



STOP THOSE ACCUSATIONS! HANK RAN INTO AN AMBUSH! WE'VE JUST GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL!

BAH. LOOKIT HIM SMILE. ENJOYIN' TH WOOL YOU'VE PULLED OVER HER EYES, EH?



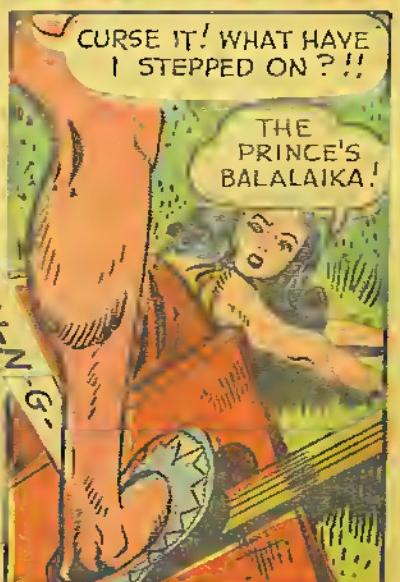
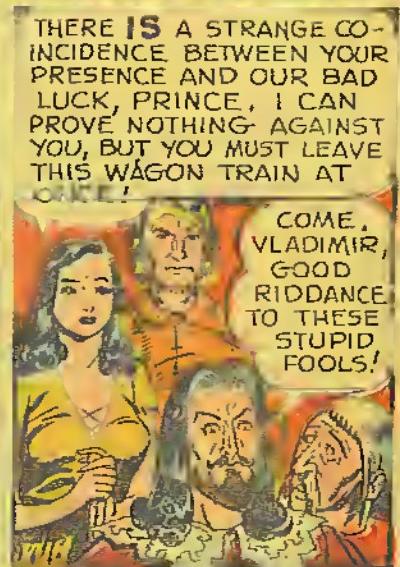
BUT THE BAD LUCK CONTINUED. THE SUCCESS OF TOSHUNTO'S SNIPERS WAS PHENOMENAL...



AMBUSHES MULTIPLIED... YOU WERE ONE OF THIS PARTY. HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO ESCAPE?

THEY SENT ME AWAY, POOR FELLOWS. THEY SAID I'D JINY THEM.





LET ME
AT THE
SCALPIN'
WRETCH!
NO, BEN--HE'S
TOSHUNTO'S SON!
WE CAN THREATEN
TO KILL HIM
UNLESS TOSHUNTO
GIVES UP HIS RAIDERS!

SEE, KIT? HOW CUR
LUCK CHANGED SINCE
THAT FAKE PRINCE
LEFT CAMP?

I'VE A PLAN, VLADIMIR...
I'M GOING TO FREE
TOSHUNTO'S SON, THEN YOU
WILL TAKE A MESSAGE TO
KIT WEST.



I AM FRIEND OF
INDIAN. TAKE
ME TO TOSHUNTO.
I HAVE PLAN TO
KILL ALL WHITE
MEN. I HATE
WHITE MEN!

YES,
YOU
FREE
CHIEF'S
SON,
YOU
MUST BE
FRIEND.

AN
HOUR
LATER

THEN THE
PRINCE SOCKED
ME. WHEN I
WOKE UP, THE
INJUN WAS GONE.



THE PRINCE IS HEARTBROKEN
THAT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE HE
WANTS TO HELP AMERICA.
HE SAVED TOSHUNTO'S SON
TO MAKE TOSHUNTO
BELIEVE HE IS INJUN'S
FRIEND... ONLY TO LEAD
THEM INTO AN AMBUSH
TOMORROW AT
DAWN AT SILENT
CREEK.

HE'S LYIN'!
HANG HIM!!

NO, I'VE GOT A BETTER
PLAN--WE'LL GET TO
SILENT CREEK **BEFORE**
DAWN, WE'LL SEE
WHO WALKS INTO AN
AMBUSH, TOSHUNTO
OR US! MEANWHILE,
HOLD VLADIMIR
PRISONER!

AT THAT TIME, AT
TOSHUNTO'S CAMP...
...WE GO, BUT WE MAKE
SURE YOU NO TRICK US.
WE TIE YOU TO STAKE,
IF WHITES AMBUSH US,
MY BRAVES BURN YOU
TO DEATH--
UNDERSTAND?



(GULP!)
U-UNDER-
STAND!!!

AT DAWN...

SEE ANYTHING
YET, KIT?

NO... YES, LOOK! COMING UP
THE CREEK... TOSHUNTO'S
BRAVES!



THE WHITE DEVIL TRICKED
US! SEND BACK WORD--HE
DIES!!

YES,
TOSHUNTO!



WHAT A LICKING!
THEY NEVER HAD
A CHANCE!

THANKS TO
THE PRINCE! WE
HAD HIM ALL WRONG
VLADIMIR!



YES--BUT
NOW THEY
KILL HIM!
(SOB!)

THREE MONTHS LATER
AT THE MISSOURI
SETTLEMENTS...

SOME PEOPLE TO
SEE YOU, KIT. DIPLOMATS,
THEY SAID.

VLADIMIR!
AT LAST WE
HAVE FOUND
YOU!



OH, YOUR
HIGHNESS--
YOUR
BROTHER
IS DEAD!

SHORTLY AFTER... A SAD
SIGHT...
HE SUFFERED
AGONIES FOR US,
AND WE DIDN'T
BELIEVE HIM!
(SOB!)
M-MASTER!!



AII-II

TOGETHER,
NOW-FIRE!



AT THAT MOMENT...

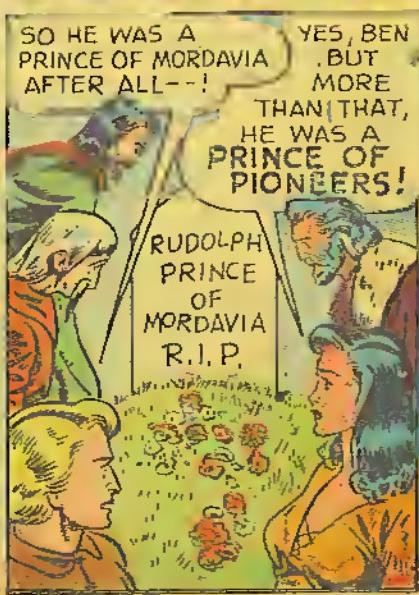
THE WHITE DEVIL REFUSES
TO SCREAM! I ONCE SAW
A NOBLE CHIEF DIE THUS--
THIS WHITE MUST BE
OF ROYALTY, TOO, HE
DIES SO BRAVELY!

COME--
THE
CURSED
WHITES
ARE
CLOSE
BEHIND-



SO HE WAS A
PRINCE OF MORDAVIA
AFTER ALL--!

YES, BEN
BUT
MORE



THAN THAT,
HE WAS A
PRINCE OF
PIONEERS!

Tales of the Silent Spaces

"TRIPLE CROSS"

IT STARTED WITH A DOUBLE-CROSS. IT CONTINUED WITH A DOUBLE-CROSS! IT ENDED WITH A DOUBLE-CROSS! LUKE LESTER, MASTER-MURDERER, GOT ALL THE TRIPLE-TROUBLE HE WAS LOOKING FOR!



SELL REINHOLD

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A ROBBERY ...

ANDY COVERS
THE BACK WAY.
ME AN' PINTO'LL WALK
IN FIRST. WHEN YOU
HEAR SHOOTIN'... GIVE
'EM - WELL, YOU KNOW
WHAT, ANDY!

LEAVE
IT TO ME,
LUKE.

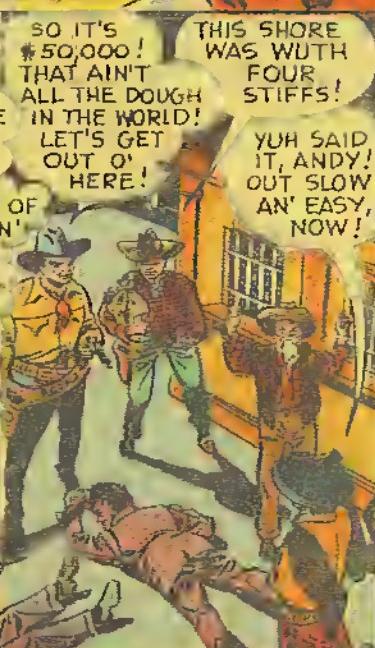
WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
LUKE LESTER
ANDY DUGAN
PINTO MAUNO
FOR BANK ROB...
AND MURDER
\$5,000
REWARD!

NATIONAL
BANK

OKAY, PINTO.
LET'S GO, SHOOT
FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS
SECOND.

WHY NOT?
THEY GOT
ENOUGH
PINNED ONTO
US TO STRETCH
OUR NECKS TEN
TIMES OVER!





LET'S STOP,
LUKE. THE
HOSSES ARE
GETTIN' AWFUL
LATHERED UP.
BESIDES -
I'M GETTIN'
HONGRY.

THE POSSE
MUST BE
WAY BEHIND.
WE CAN
STOP A
WHILE.

OKAY, HOW
'BOUT HERE?

AIN'T
YUH
GETTIN'
OFF, LUKE?

IN A MINUTE.
YUH GUYS GIT.
SUPPER GOIN'

THEY GIT IT
THE SECOND
THEY TURN
THEIR BACKS...!

BANG!
BANG!

ARRGH-H!

L-LUKE!
...YUH...
(GASP!)
GONE
LOCO?

LOCO
AS A FOX!

BANG!
BANG!

DIRTY *%&@!
DOUBLE-
CROSSER!
OHH-HH-H...

FIRST
STOP,
FEATHER
CITY...
AN' GOOD-
OLE LOLA-

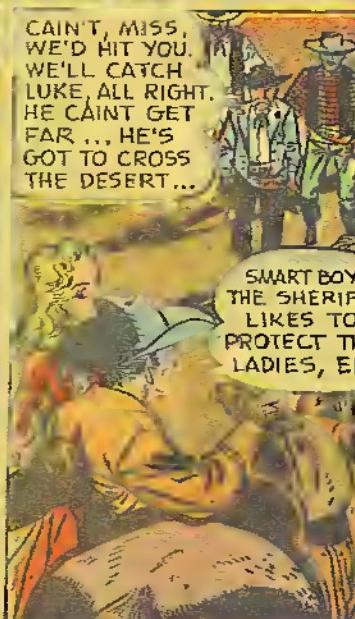
MIDNIGHT, FEATHER CITY -- A
TOWN THAT KNEW NO CURFEW...

HERE Y'ARE, BOY!
QUIET NOW, WHILE
I GO SEE MY OLD
FLAME, LOLA, AN'
MAYBE CATCH
FORTY WINKS...

THERE MUST BE A REWARD OUT FOR
MY HAID AS BIG AS THIS TAKE, ALMOST.
BUT LOLA WAS ALWAYS SWEET ON ME.
SHE'LL HELP POPPA WHEN HE'S ON
THE LAM...

OH, I KNEW YOU'D
COME! I HEARD
ALL ABOUT
IT! YOU'RE
IN AWFUL
TROUBLE!

I KNOW.
BABY, - THAT'S
WHY YOU'VE GOT
TO HELP ME.
I'M PLUMB
POOPED. I'VE
GOT TO REST
A SPELL OR
I'LL DROP



SHE'S DEAD! AIN'T
THERE NOTHIN' SACRED TO
THET COYOTE?

NOTHIN' BUT HIS GREED FOR GOLD, ROUND UP EVERY GUN-SLINGER IN TOWN! THET TRIGGER-MAD SKUNK WON'T HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF GITTIN' AWAY.



FOUR MISERABLE, AGONIZING HOURS LATER...

STARTIN' TO GIT SANDY ALREADY—I MUST BE GITTIN' CLOSE TO UNCLE WILLIE'S FARM... THE LAST STOP BETWEEN THE DESERT AN' WATER!



AS DAWN BURSTS RED OVER THE EDGE OF THE DESERT...

HEY, THERE, UNCLE WILLIE! C'MON OUT! WHERE'S EVERYBODY? BE THET YUH, LUKE? WHAT'IN TARNATION BE YUH DOIN' IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS?



I SAID, WHERE'S EVERYBODY?

HEY! — THET WATER'S PRECIOUS HERE. I WORKED TEN YEARS TGIT UP AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO CHANGE THIS CUSSSED LAN' INTO A FARM!



THET'S TOO BAD, UNCLE WILLIE. YER ABOUT TO LOSE THEM TEN YEARS. YUH STILL DIDN'T SAY WHERE EVERYBODY IS!



THEY ALL WENT TO THE FAIR AT SHOTGUN STOP THET HACKIN', LUKE! WITHOUT THET WATER THIS FARM'D DRY UP LIKE A PRUNE, GIVE US THET AXE!

Y'DON'T UNDERSTAND, UNCLE WILLIE, THERE'S A POSSE THAT'LL BE COUNTIN' ON GITTIN' WATER TO GIT ACROSS THET DESERT AFTER ME...



WELL, THEY WON'T GIT A SWALLOW! — I'M A-BUSTIN' EVERY TANK AN' BARREL ON THIS FARM. I'M JUST LEAVIN' ENOUGH IN THE KITCHEN TO FILL UP MY OWN CANTEEN!
N-NO... NO, LUKE... YOU DASSENT... (GASP!) ... TEN YEARS I WORKED...



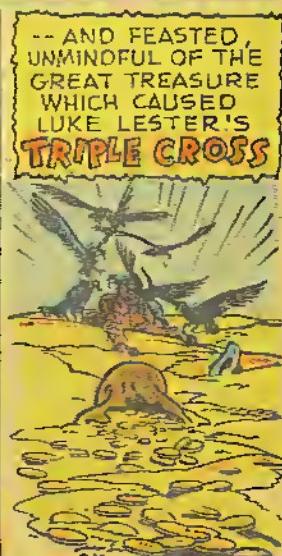
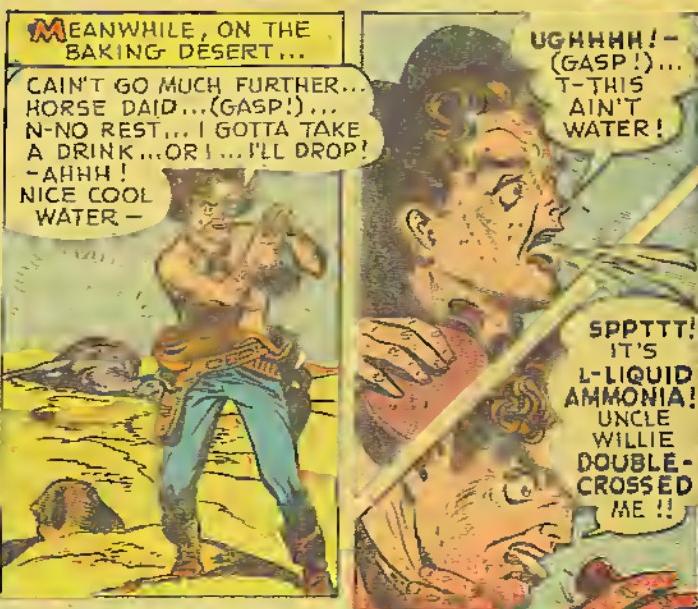
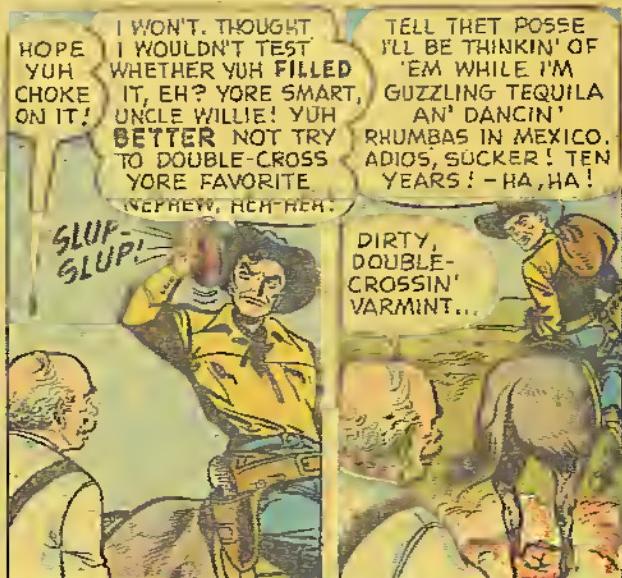
TOO BAD, OLD RAT! TOO BAD! GIT INSIDE AN' FILL THIS CANTEEN WHILE I BUST UP THE REST OF YORE IRRIGATION WHATEVER — YUH CALL IT! GIT GOIN'!



NO MAN CAN MAKE MORE'N FIVE MILES
ACROSS THE DESERT WITHOUT DYIN' O'
THIRST. I ONCE WATCHED A GREASER
GO MAD--HE STARTED SCREAMIN'
LIKE A CHICKEN WITHOUT HIS HAID.
HEH-HEH-THEN HE SAW RAIN...
RAIN THAT WASN'T THERE!
I'LL FIX THET POSSE!

HOPE YUH
CHOKE
ON IT!
I WON'T, THOUGHT.
I WOULDN'T TEST
WHETHER YUH FILLED
IT, EH? YORE SMART,
UNCLE WILLIE! YUH
BETTER NOT TRY
TO DOUBLE-CROSS
YORE FAVORITE
NEPHEW, HEH-HEH.

TELL THET POSSE
I'LL BE THINKIN' OF
'EM WHILE I'M
GUZZLING TEQUILA
AN' DANCIN'
RHUMBAS IN MEXICO.
ADIOS, SUCKER! TEN
YEARS! - HA, HA!



SHARP AND FLAT

"SWING YOUR PARTNER"

IN THE OLD WEST THERE WERE NO RADIOS AND NO JUKE BOXES, BUT THE FOLKS LIKED NOTHING BETTER THAN A GOOD EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCING AND AROUND HIGH HOLLOW THEY KNEW WHOM TO CALL ON FOR THE MUSIC. IT WAS THOSE TWO WANDERING MUSICIANS, THOSE MUSIC-MAKERS OF THE OLD WEST--SHARP AND FLAT--AND SOMETIMES THEY PROVIDED MORE THAN JUST COUNTRY MUSIC!



ONE DAY, AT A COLONY OF NEW SETTLERS JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN--

HERE WE ARE,
FLAT. LOOKS MIGHTY QUIET FOR A NEW SETTLEMENT.

SURE DOES, SHARP. WE OUGHTA BE ABLE TO PICK UP A JOB OR TWO HERE. THEY COULD STAND SOME MUSIC. LET'S ASK THET FELLER.



SAY, PARDNER, HOW ABOUT SOME REAL HOE-DOWN MUSIC AROUND HERE?

YEP--WE PLAY A MEAN SQUARE-DANCE. MEBBE YOU HEARD OF US-SHARP AND FLAT.

NOPE, NEVER DID! AND NOBODY WANTS ANY MUSIC 'ROUND HERE NO SIR!



SEE - WE'RE A-MOVIN'!
WE BOUGHT THIS LAND
BACK EAST FROM THE
AJAX LAND COMPANY
BUT IT'S JINXED!
WE'RE PULLIN' OUT.

BUT THAT'S A TOTAL
LOSS -- YOU'LL LOSE ALL
YOU PAID FOR IT.



SUDDENLY --
CARSON -- YOU
HERE?

YEP, I'M
BUYIN' THIS
JINXED LAND
OFF THESE
FOLKS FOR HALF
PRICE...HELPIN'
'EM OUT.

THAT'S RIGHT.
MR. CARSON,
HERE, IS REAL
GENEROUS,
GIVIN' US
HALF WHAT
WE PAID
AJAX FOR
BAD LAND.

WHY DO YOU
SAY THE LAND'S
JINXED?

SON, WHEN CATTLE DIE LIKE
FLIES AND FOLKS TURN SICK,
FER NO GOOD REASON -- THAT
LAND'S JINXED. THAT AJAX
OUTFIT SOLD US BAD
LAND, THAT'S ALL!



I'M GLAD TO DO THIS FOR
YOU GOOD PEOPLE. I'M
BIG-HEARTED THAT WAY,
REMEMBER, YA'LL ALL
BE AT MY FAREWELL
PARTY FOR YA
TONIGHT.

WE'RE MIGHTY GRATEFUL,
MR. CARSON -- GETTIN' HALF
OUR MONEY BACK IS
BETTER'N NOTHIN'!



LET'S GO, FLAT. NO
MUSIC WANTED HERE
WHEN DID THAT BLOW-
HARD, CARSON, GET
SO GENEROUS?

SEARCH ME!
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D
DO ANYONE A KIND TURN.
ESPECIALLY WITH
MONEY INVOLVED;
BUT HE'S DOIN' IT!



HIM AN' HIS PARTIES!
HE HIRES US FOR NEARLY
NOTHIN' AND MAKES US
PLAY TILL WE DROP.

YOU'RE RIGHT, SHARP,
BUT IT'S BETTER THAN
NO WORK AT ALL!



UH-SHARP,
DON'T GET MAD,
BUT I SAW THIS
BIRD CARSON
BEFORE. I
AGREED WE'D
PLAY AT THE
PARTY HE'S
THROWIN'
TONIGHT.

AW, FLAT--
I TOLDJA NOT
TO TAKE ANY
ANMORE
JOBS FROM
HIM! SHUCKS!
NOW WELL HAVE
TO GO
THROUGH W
IT: C'MON--
LET'S GET
BACK!

AND SO, THAT NIGHT --
SWING YOUR PARDNER,
ONE-TWO-THREE --
TURN TO THE
LEFT AN' THERE
SHE'LL BE --

PSSST--
HARP, HERE
COMES
CARSON
AGAIN!

LOUDER - PLAY
LOUDER, YA HEAR?
WADDAYA THINK
I'M PAYIN' YA FOR?
LOUDER AND
FASTER!

YES, SIR,
WE'LL TRY!



C'MON,
FOLKS! HAVE A
GOOD
TIME!
IT'S ALL
ON ME,
Y'KNOW!

THE SKINFINT!
WONDER WHERE
HE GETS HIS
MONEY...BUYIN'
LAND AT
HALF-PRICE

TH' MORE
I THINK
OF IT, THE
LESS IT
SEEMS LIKE
HIM-HELPIN'
THOSE
SETTLERS
BUT SO THEY
ONLY LOSE
HALF THEIR
MONEY.



IT BEATS
ME TOO.
CARSON
NEVER DID
ANYTHING
NICE FOR
ANYBODY'

TO GET MY
MEGAPHONE
FOR THE
REEL, IT'S
IN THE
BACK. KEEP
PLAYIN'!

YOU GOIN?



HERE
IT IS.
HEY,
THAT'S
CARSON'S
VOICE!

THEM
SETTLERS
ARE ALL
WILLIN'
TO SELL
BOSS. ONLY
A FEW
ARE HOLDIN'

YOU BETTER
GET OUT THE
HORNS. TAKE
MORE ARSEH
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO
CONVINCE
THEM THAT
THE LAND
JINXED!





SOON AFTER, BACK
AT CARSON'S PARTY -

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
WE WANT MUSIC!
YA'LL ONLY GET
HALF-PAY FOR
THIS NIGHT!

IS THAT SO? WELL,
CARSON, WE GOT
SOMETHIN'
FOR YOU!

YEAH? WHA..OWW!
THIS!! WE'RE
ALSO WISE TO
YOUR
ARSENIC
POISONING.

CRACK

GRAB THEM--
THEY KNOW
TOO MUCH!

YEAH -- AND
THEY HIT
THE BOSS!

QUICK, FLAT -
BEHIND THE
PIANO. SOME
OF OUR OTHER
INSTRUMENTS
ARE THERE.

HOLD ON
TO HIM
WHILE I
TEACH HIM
A LESSON.

I HOPE YOU LIKE
THE BULL FIDDLE!
IT'S A NICE
INSTRUMENT,
SEE!!!

AND HERE'S A
LITTLE SOMETHING
YOU CAN KEEP!

BOUM

UH!

THAT'S ENOUGH
OUTA YOU, YOU
LITTLE RUNT!

DOOH-HH,
SHARP-

I'M
COMIN',
FLAT!

